



# UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD

It is about working on the great themes of our time.

It is about people embarking on their journey.

We open up horizons, foster academic talent  
and inspire students.

We create space for bold ideas.

We continue to develop the concept of educational reform.

We successfully implement gender mainstreaming  
and see ourselves as a university without prejudice.



**Our Mission.**

# Bielefeld University

As a university internationally regarded for its top-level research and innovative teaching concepts, Bielefeld University makes a significant contribution to a progressive and participatory knowledge society. It is an attractive, family-friendly place to work and study and is characterised by an open communication culture, lived interdisciplinarity, diversity and freedom for personal development.

Bielefeld University was founded in 1969 with an explicit research assignment and a mission to provide high-quality research-oriented teaching. Today, it has around 25,000 students, 13 faculties that cover a broad range of disciplines in the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences and technology, over 280 professors and 2,700 employees. In addition, the University is in the process of establishing a medical faculty – marking a decisive step on the path to becoming a ‘Volluniversität’ (full university) that offers a comprehensive range of disciplines.

Faculty of Biology

Faculty of History  
and Philosophy and Theology

Faculty of Mathematics

Faculty of Psychology  
and Sports Science

Faculty of Technology

Faculty of Chemistry

School of Public Health

Medical School OWL

Faculty of Law

Faculty of Business Administration  
and Economics

Faculty of  
Educational Science

Faculty of Linguistics  
and Literary Studies

Faculty of Physics

Faculty of Sociology

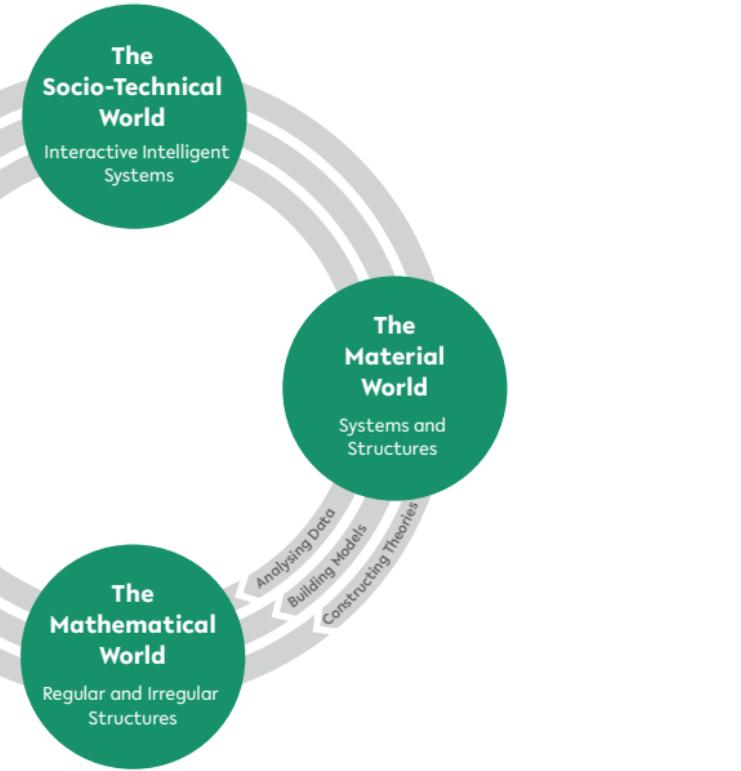
UNIVERSITÄT  
BIELEFELD

## Research

Bielefeld University is committed to its strong research focus. Its research profile stems from four strategic research areas which are connected by three cross-cutting topics. The research areas are interdisciplinary, each involving various faculties and central academic institutes. Here, top-class interdisciplinary research is carried out at the highest international level, in particular within the framework of targeted third-party funded projects.

The strategic research areas focus on cutting-edge basic research. They provide valuable points of orientation for applications in and questions arising from business and society, in accordance with the Bielefeld principle of 'Transcending Boundaries'. This concept is key to Bielefeld's success: It strengthens top-level research through multi-perspective and problem-oriented approaches that transcend boundaries between disciplines, scientific cultures, research and teaching, and science and society. Through a culture of openness, potential is identified and fostered at an early stage.

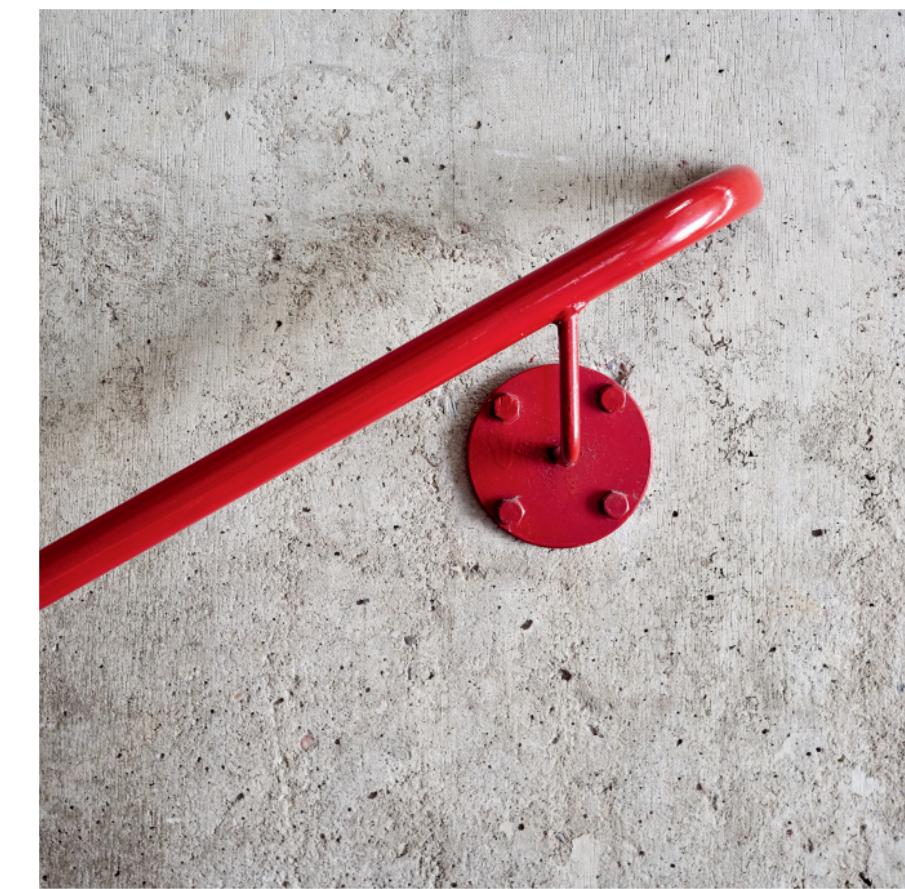
## Strategic Research Areas



## Young Researchers

The performance of Bielefeld University is largely determined by its young researchers at all career levels. For this reason, the University sees the support of young researchers as a strategically important, future-oriented and long-term task. This includes providing a stimulating environment with an optimal infrastructure for the core tasks of research and teaching. Bielefeld University also offers its young researchers a comprehensive range of advisory, funding and personnel development services to help them successfully develop their careers: they are aimed at all career stages in the qualification and tenure track phase and reflect the challenges that each stage presents.

The personnel development programme is designed in particular to enable young researchers to consciously examine their personal development options within the academic system, but also in business and society. The Bielefeld Young Researchers Programme supports the transition between different career stages and options. To ensure the compatibility of family and career, Bielefeld University also offers differentiated measures for all career stages.



## Study and Teaching

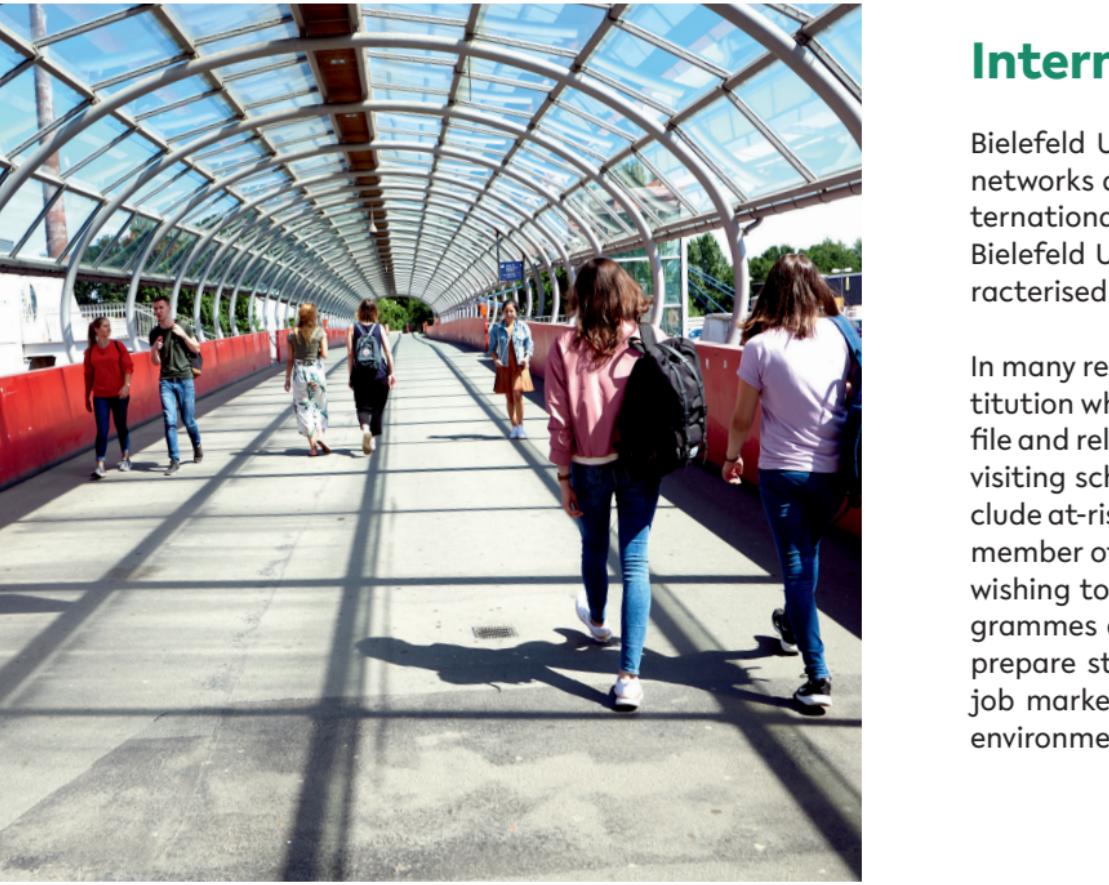
At Bielefeld University, good teaching means activating the student's sense of personal responsibility. It also means taking each student seriously and treating them respectfully, irrespective of background, origin and interests, and acting in a fair and transparent manner. Teachers are role models, and convey values such as civil courage, respect, accountability and commitment.

Bielefeld University prepares students for careers in various professions on national and international job markets. In addition to specialist knowledge and methodological competence, research-oriented teaching develops critical and analytical thinking. It increases the ability to reflect upon and solve problems.

The Bielefeld study model is characterised by its exceptional transparency and permeability: With a large number of subject combinations and a uniform module size at Bachelor level, a broadly-based catalogue of elective courses and an interdisciplinary Master's programme, Bielefeld University facilitates interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

At Bielefeld University, however, study and teaching do not only take place in the lecture theatre. With uncomplicated communication between lecturers and students, good study conditions and comprehensive counselling services, Bielefeld University supports independent learning and successful study: students are expected to be hard-working and committed, in return for which they are given the freedom to make their own decisions and determine their own study focus.

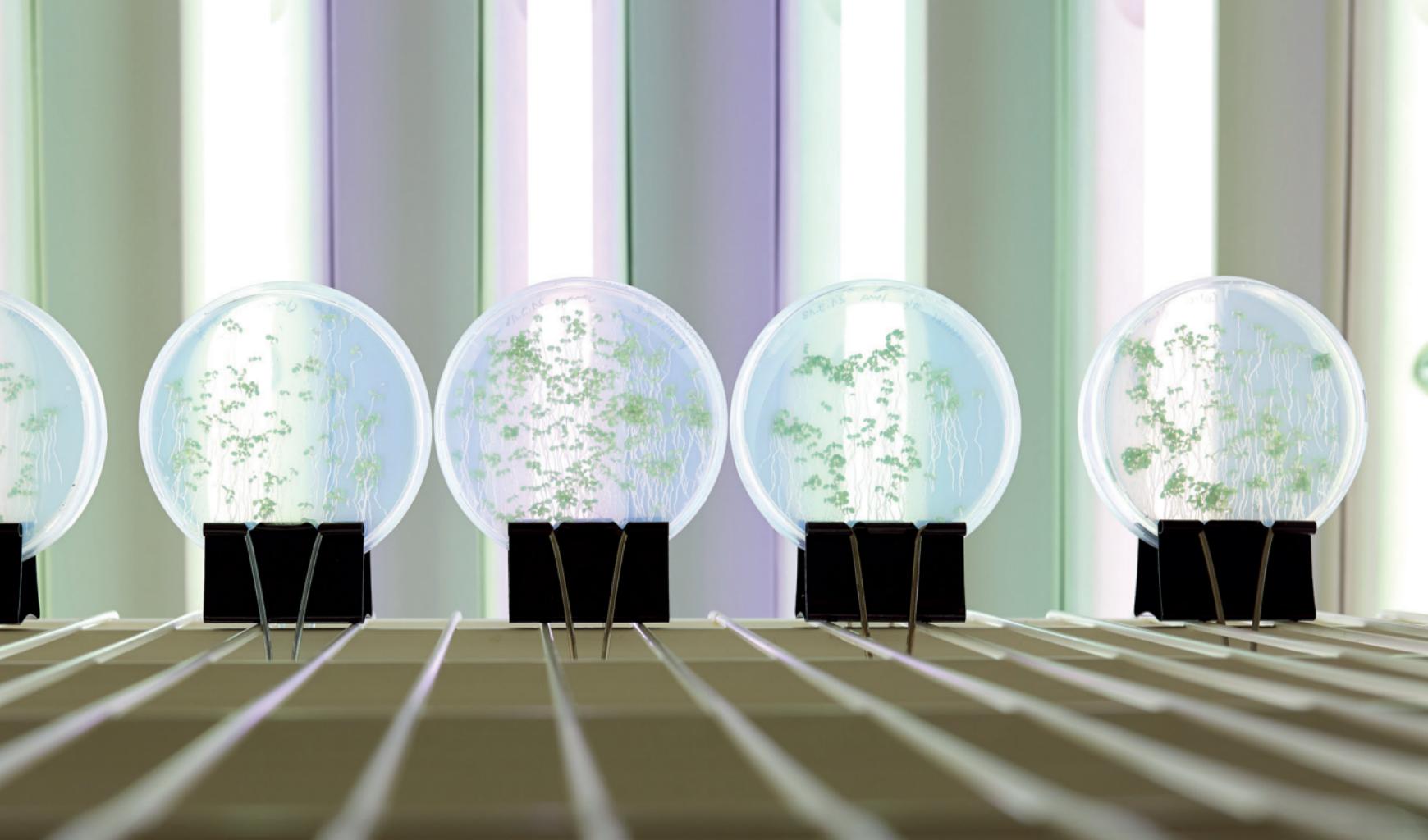




## Internationalisation

Bielefeld University is an internationally successful institution with networks across the globe. Its hallmark is that the experience of internationalisation is firmly anchored in all areas of the University. Bielefeld University sees itself as a social space for reflection, characterised by international exchange and cultural openness.

In many research areas, Bielefeld University is a leading research institution which attracts researchers from abroad with its strong profile and relevance. Each year it welcomes to Bielefeld several hundred visiting scholars as well as students from the whole world. These include at-risk and refugee scholars, which the University supports as a member of the Scholars at Risk Network, as well as refugees who are wishing to study. Study programmes in English, Double Degree Programmes as well as study programmes with an international track prepare students from Germany and abroad for the international job market. Students thus acquire intercultural competence in an environment characterised by diversity.





## Diversity

Bielefeld University sees diversity as a strength, heterogeneity as potential and difference as an advantage. These form the bedrock of innovative research and are the basis for academic life. At the University, various institutions and initiatives are committed to promoting diversity.

The university management is developing a university-wide diversity strategy with four main fields of action: Research and teaching reflect the social and historical approach to diversity and difference. The University is expanding its 'welcoming culture' by actively scouting for talent, by promoting and supporting the talent of its students, and through specific personnel development programmes. The University addresses the needs of individuals and specific groups by identifying and implementing corresponding support and advisory services in order to realise its goal of equal opportunity. University-wide initiatives promote civil courage and aim to reduce prejudice, prevent discrimination and combat disadvantage.

## Gender and equal opportunity

Gender equality is fully anchored in Bielefeld University's structures and processes. The responsibility to realise the ambition of gender equality and to implement equal opportunity policies lies with the University Management and all other University members, in particular those in positions of leadership. Bielefeld University has been highly successful in its commitment to gender equality, and has a wealth of targeted initiatives at its disposal with over 400 central and decentralised tools and actions to promote equal opportunity.

The German Research Foundation (DFG) has ranked Bielefeld University as 'particularly successful' in the implementation of its Research-Oriented Standards on Gender Equality. The University was also highly commended within the framework of the Programme for Women Professors III ('Professorinnenprogramm III'), a joint initiative of the Federal government and the Länder. It is also ranked among the top ten universities recognised as leading the way on implementing equal opportunity in Germany. Since 2008, it has received the TOTAL E-QUALITY award for successfully implementing gender equality in its personnel and organisational policies, most recently in 2017 with the additional category of 'diversity'.

## Civil Society, business and politics

Bielefeld University maintains close network ties with civil society, business and politics. Findings generated from its basic research endeavours are disseminated to society: through collaborations with commercial enterprises, charitable organisations and foundations as well as through policy advice or through spin-off companies. The University engages in current debates on topics such as equality, prejudice and violence, migration or health care development. In this way, the University aims to participate actively in the further development of society.

The University maintains close relations with the city and region and facilitates the exchange of expertise. It develops cross-institutional initiatives to approach locally and regionally relevant topics. The University makes another important contribution to the development of a progressive and participative knowledge society through its communication of science-related topics and by reporting on its research. It shares its activities and research with the general public and thus increases the acceptance of scientific approaches and findings.



Visualisation: modernisation of the main university building

## Building for the future

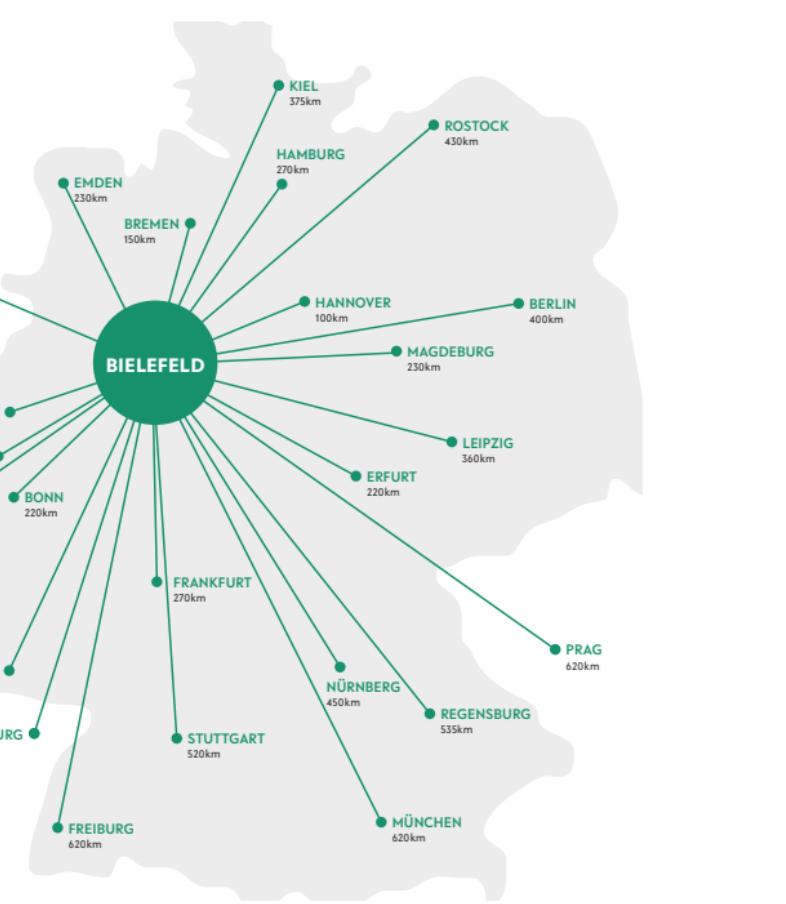
The science location of Bielefeld is expanding. New venues for state-of-the-art teaching and research, the modernisation of the main university building and new buildings constructed in the course of the establishment of the Medical Faculty create optimum conditions for research, teaching, study and work. The state of North Rhine-Westphalia is thus sending a clear signal of its commitment to the future of Bielefeld University and the science location of Bielefeld.



## Life on campus and in Bielefeld

A culture of openness and individual freedom is inherent in the special architecture and compact campus of Bielefeld University. Beyond the lecture halls and workplace, a wide range of cultural and sporting activities is on offer. Researchers, lecturers, doctoral candidates and students from all over the world are an integral part of the campus, which is currently being developed to become one of the most modern university locations in Germany.

The university town of Bielefeld with more than 335,000 inhabitants is among the 20 largest cities in Germany. Bielefeld is greener than almost any other major city - thanks to its location in the Teutoburg Forest and its numerous parks and green routes. The city is renowned for its cultural highlights and the wide range of leisure activities on offer. It is the number one shopping city in the region and has a varied and inviting culinary scene. Ostwestfalen-Lippe is a young and economically vibrant region with excellent work prospects. It is home to many leading international companies.



## Site plan



# Imprint

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